

*STORY OF THE CLIMATE  
OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA*

*THE COLORADO OF CANADA*



## MIDWINTER FROLICS

Dec 14, 1900



THE Southern portion of the district of Alberta, situated on the eastern slope of the famous Rocky Mountains, has already become renowned for its mild and exhilarating climate. Though in the interior and away from those moderating influences which the sea has upon climate, it offers to the settler many of those advantages known only to dwellers upon the mild Pacific Coast, the advantages of a temperate clime where the keenness of winter is broken by warm western winds and the heat of summer moderated by cool and refreshing nights. And both these in a country where the fogs and damp of the sea coast are entirely unknown.

These favorable conditions in the climate are brought about by a wind which is peculiar to



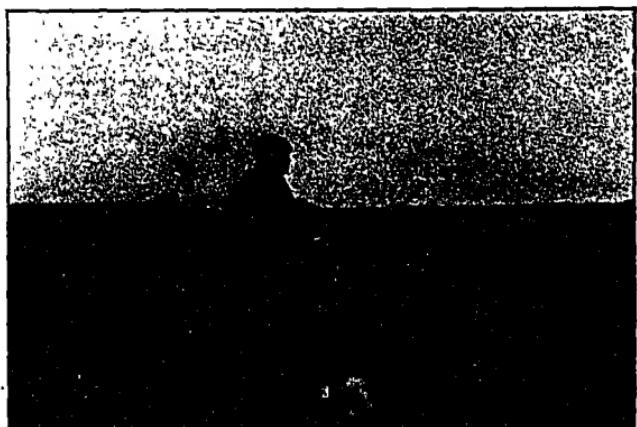
#### MAY IN DECEMBER

Dec. 15, 1900

Southern Alberta, and is known as "The Chinook." It is not a vicious wind, and though sometimes it blows with an almost disagreeable vigor, cyclones and disasters of the kind are entirely unknown in the district. Days and weeks may pass with only a soft, delightful breeze.

"Old Timers" in the cattle raising business speak of the strong-blowing Chinook as "The Salvation of the Country," for the Chinook is a warm wind.

The total annual precipitation is only ten or eleven inches as against about thirty in the rain



Dec. 12, 1900

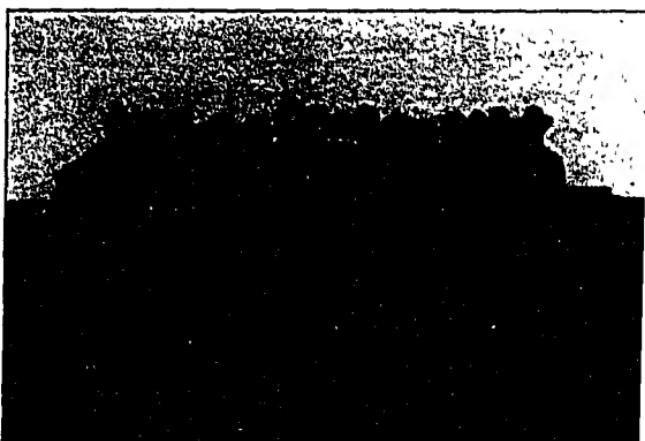
A SULTRY DAY



#### A WINTER OUTING

Dec. 23, 1900

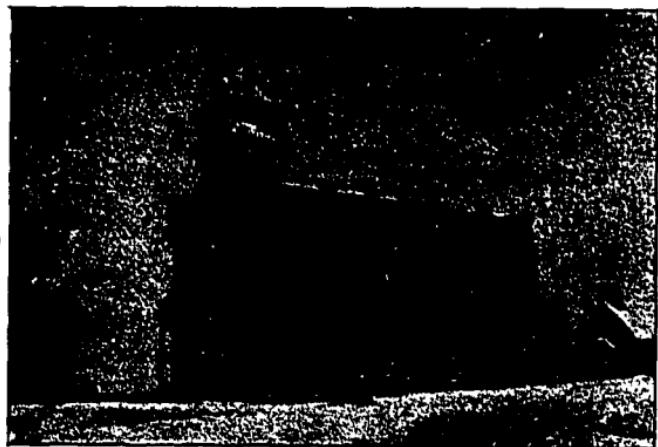
belt districts of the eastern portion of this continent. It is therefore evident that the snowfall of the winter season must be comparatively light. The winter consists of alternate periods of light snowfalls and stretches of open weather, so mild as to make possible the carrying on of operations that in other parts of Canada belong to the summer season. Winter commonly begins with a considerable fall of soft snow coming in October or November. This is the heaviest fall of the season and is accompanied by a couple of days



Dec. 25, 1900

#### A CHRISTMAS BASEBALL GAME

of stormy weather, but the snow disappears as rapidly as it comes, under the influence of the Chinook, which, being a dry wind, absorbs the moisture rather than melts it on the ground. The winter proper consists of clear weather with occasional light snowfalls a couple of inches deep that do not interfere with cattle grazing on the

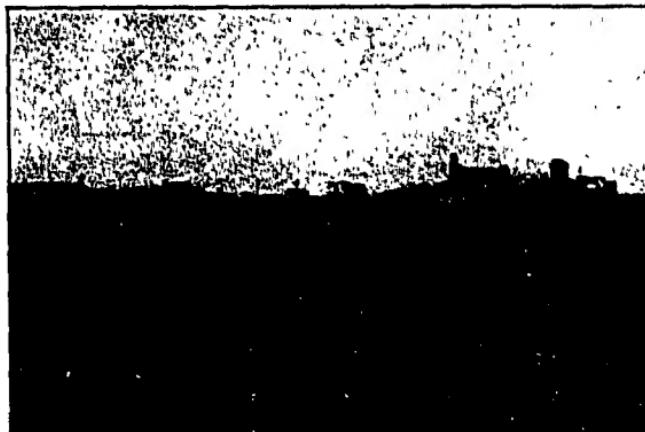


AFTER THE SNOWFALL

Jan. 5, 1900

open prairie but rather furnish moisture to the live stock. There are frequently periods of from two to four weeks in which building and other out-door operations are carried on uninterruptedly, games of lacrosse or football are played, and overcoats laid aside for a while.

An analysis of the temperature readings be-



### LACROSSE, ONE OF OUR WINTER GAMES

Jan. 16, 1901

low shows the following facts with respect to the past three winter months, December, January and February :

	Highest Average Daily Readings, Degrees.	Lowest Average Daily Readings, Degrees.	Average Daily Readings, Degrees.
December	38	30	34
January	29	16	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
February	26	12	19

The lowest individual daily reading was in







PAINTING

Feb. 23, 1901

inches or even a foot.

My experience of the winter, during two years' residence, has been that the season is short and pleasant, snow-falls have been light and the snow has never remained long owing to the frequent Chinooks.

The accompanying photographs were taken by the writer on the dates indicated below them and truthfully reflect the characteristic winter conditions.

And what of the summer? The precipitation being light there can be no heavy clouds, and the sun is always with us, so that this locality has been well named "a rich-soiled land of sunshine." Owing to our northern latitude and considerable elevation (the latter being nearly

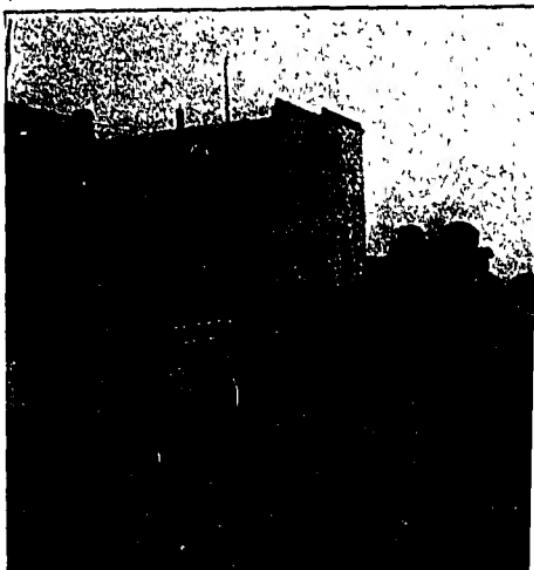
November and was 28 degrees below zero, but extremes of this kind are never of long duration.

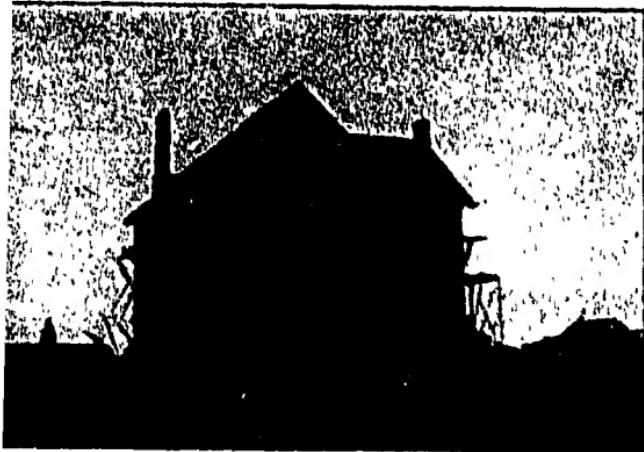
Heavy snow-falls are exceptional, though they have been known to cover the ground to a depth of several

3000 feet above sea level) we have, in mid-summer nineteen hours of light, the great factor in the production of vegetable life and the health-giving condition to animal life. However great the heat of the day the nights are always cool and refreshing.

Large bands of cattle and sheep graze on the prairies in this locality through the entire summer and winter without ever having seen the inside of any building and without ever having received a pound of fodder prepared by man.

The following extract from an article on the climate of Southern Alberta, appearing in the *American Meteorological Journal*, over twelve years ago by Mr. C. C. McCaul, a well-known Canadian barrister, who had resided for a number of years in this district, is interesting:





BUILDING IN DECEMBER

“ The grand characteristic of the climate as a whole, that on which the weather hinges, is “ the Chinook wind. It blows from west to “ southwest, in varying degrees of strength. . . “ In winter the wind is distinctly warm ; in “ summer not so distinctly cool. Its approach “ is heralded by the massing of dark cumulus “ clouds about the mountain tops, and a distant “ wailing and rumbling from the passes of gorges. “ Its effect in winter is little short of miraculous. When a real Chinook blows, the thermometer often rises in a few hours from 20 “ below to 40 above zero ; the snow, which in “ the morning may have been a foot deep, dis- “ appears before night ; everything is dripping ; “ but before another night falls all the water is “ lapped up by the thirsty wind and the prairie “ is so dry that a horse’s hoofs hardly make an

" imprint as you take your first welcome canter  
" after a prolonged and tedious spell of ' settin'  
" round the stove'."

Mr. Ernest Ingersoll, in the *Canadian Record of Science*, also writes :

" This wind is marvellous in its effects. To  
" it is due the pleasing dryness of even the  
" deepest gorges and nooks in the rocks in sum-  
" mer, while in winter it clears the plains for  
" hundreds of miles away from the mountains  
" of nearly all the snow—always scant in amount  
" —with amazing celerity."

Truly, the Chinook is a blessing in Southern Alberta.



Feb. 25, 1901

FEBRUARY SUNSHINE

## THERMOMETER READINGS

Taken at Lethbridge, Alberta.

November 18th, 1900, to March 31st, 1901, inclusive.

Date	Max.	Min.												
1900			1900			1901			1901			1901		
Nov 16	11		Dec. 1	42	39	Jan. 1	5	-2	Feb. 1	32	20	Mar. 1	60	46
" 17	0	-2	" 2	47	31	" 2	-4	-5	" 3	14	8	" 2	30	40
" 18	0	-4	" 3	44	37	" 3	-9	-14	" 4	10	0	" 3	21	18
" 19	-4	-9	" 4	46	27	" 4	-7	-12	" 5	18	-11	" 4	11	-6
" 20	-4	-15	" 5	54	38	" 5	-12	-20	" 6	24	12	" 5	34	1
" 21	-3	-14	" 6	56	36	" 6	6	-15	" 7	20	18	" 6	44	25
" 22	-7	-28	" 7	58	44	" 7	-2	-5	" 8	18	5	" 7	46	26
" 23	-0	-14	" 8	16	14	" 8	-4	-13	" 9	28	11	" 8	44	33
" 24	40	-10	" 9	25	13	" 9	19	-16	" 10	4	-2	" 9	42	23
" 25	44	34	" 10	30	15	" 10	22	14	" 11	40	-5	" 10	45	25
" 26	46	38	" 11	50	23	" 11	38	22	" 12	47	32	" 11	42	27
" 27	42	30	" 12	50	37	" 12	44	30	" 13	50	31	" 12	44	22
" 28	46	36	" 13	45	38	" 13	48	40	" 14	52	36	" 13	48	31
" 29	46	39	" 14	46	31	" 14	42	34	" 15	6	0	" 14	57	31
" 30	46	36	" 15	49	34	" 15	32	26	" 16	35	26	" 15	60	37
			" 16	44	33	" 16	33	18	" 17	44	34	" 16	56	39
			" 17	43	34	" 17	44	34	" 18	19	18	" 17	48	37
			" 18	44	31	" 18	53	36	" 19	8	4	" 18	37	27
			" 19	52	34	" 19	50	40	" 20	8	2	" 19	50	21
			" 20	42	36	" 20	38	33	" 21	8	-3	" 20	58	34
			" 21	40	34	" 21	48	25	" 22	10	8	" 21	60	27
			" 22	39	20	" 22	45	36	" 23	34	9	" 22	44	28
			" 23	43	34	" 23	36	15	" 24	32	8	" 23	42	31
			" 24	43	30	" 24	44	35	" 25	32	7	" 24	50	29
			" 25	53	29	" 25	34	28	" 26	44	14	" 25	51	28
			" 26	27	16	" 26	40	25	" 27	52	37	" 26	48	25
			" 27	42	26	" 27	48	36	" 28	61	37	" 27	40	23
			" 28	14	13	" 28	42	32				" 28	43	31
			" 29	14	5	" 29	30	22				" 29	48	25
			" 30	14	4	" 30	28	11				" 30	47	27
			" 31	14	4	" 31	22	19				" 31	40	30